

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05276 211840Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-10 NSC-05 CIAE-00 /043 W
-----073899 211844Z /41

P 211730Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1467

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FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, VT
SUBJECT: POPE PAUL'S HEALTH

1. THE VATICAN ANNOUNCED MARCH 20 THAT POPE PAUL HAS CANCELLED HIS PARTICIPATION IN FIVE HOLY WEEK RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES DUE TO INFLUENZA.

2. VATICAN SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE POPE WAS RELUCTANT TO CANCEL HIS PARTICIPATION IN THESE CEREMONIES BUT THE MEDICAL DOCTORS ATTENDING HIM INSISTED. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THE POPE HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY THE ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS, AND UNLESS HE TOOK A COMPLETE REST HIS DOCTORS FEARED THAT THE FLU COULD TURN INTO PNEUMONIA, THEREBY ENDANGERING THE POPE'S HEALTH.

3. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO THE BOUT WITH THE FLU, THE EIGHTY-YEAR OLD POPE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN SHAKEN BY THE ABDUCTION OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER MORO BY THE RED BRIGADES AND THE KILLING OF HIS FIVE GUARDS AND THE RECENT LOSS OF LIFE IN LEBANON. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPE, HEALTH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME05276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0853
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780342/aaaabjki.tel
Line Count: 45
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 823161c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3254787
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPE PAUL'S HEALTH
TAGS: PGOV, VT, (PAUL VI, POPE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/823161c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014